

Forestry Conservation/Teaching Lab Complex Planning

University of Montana - UM

A/E# 2020-01-07

Project Budget: \$200,000

The University of Montana is soliciting for firms with higher education experience to undertake the planning for a new Forestry Conservation/Teaching Lab Building. The successful firm will become the architect of record and will build upon the initial scoping document developed by MMW and HDR architects. The goal is to complete the programming and to develop a preliminary design and supporting cost estimates that will be used for fundraising activities as well as to support the campus's request for legislative funding.

The University seeks funding for a new Forestry, Conservation, and Science Lab Teaching Complex (Facility) on the Flagship Missoula campus. The building will include state-of-the-art research and teaching laboratories (and support), teaching spaces, faculty offices, as well as meeting space. The Facility will also include site work, landscape, and parking. A key component of the Facility is its showcase potential as a demonstration of Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) construction, which supports key industries throughout the state. Additionally, the Facility will be designed to a minimum LEED Silver certification with energy conservation and efficiency at its core.

The Facility will solidify UM's preeminent position in Forestry and Conservation, and will restore UM's position as the flagship university in the sciences, helping to enable the recruitment of top students from across the state, the country, and the world. This investment is a key part of UM's desire to 'break down silos' as shared laboratory and teaching spaces bring together faculty and students from across colleges and disciplines.

The Franke College has grown rapidly from 426 students in 2011 to 786 students in 2019. Its 42 faculty are currently distributed across eight different buildings on the UM campus. The new Facility will co-locate its academic and research activities under one roof and create central gathering facilities that will be available for use by the Franke College and the entire UM community. By co-locating all members of the Franke College in the Facility, UM will be able to re-purpose or eliminate less efficient spaces across the campus. The Facility will house the entirety of the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation (Franke College) and will also provide laboratory and active-learning spaces hosting a majority of core courses offered to virtually all of UM's students.

The Facility will turn what is presently a weakness for a key area into one of UM's greatest strengths: a modern Facility that brings together students from across the sciences, engaging them in interactive, hands-on activities with the latest equipment, spaces and technologies.

The timeline for completion of this plan is October 2020. Firms applying for this project should highlight their academic science facilities experience and demonstrate their knowledge and experience with CLT construction.

Qualification submissions are due through eMACS to the Architecture & Engineering Division on or before, May 12th for short-listing for interviews. Interviews are anticipated to be conducted on campus and are anticipated to be scheduled around the first of June.

For additional information, please contact Rick Hilmes at (406) 543-4187, rhilmes@mt.gov or Kevin A. Krebsbach at (406) 243-2095, KrebsbachKA@mso.umt.edu.